

Week of December 14, 2009



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Missouri to Implement Appliance Rebate Program

Conserving energy through the use of energy-efficient appliances just became even more financially rewarding for Missouri homeowners. Recently, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced that the U.S. Department of Energy has approved Missouri's plan for a new *Energize Missouri Appliance Rebates* program, which is scheduled to begin April 19, 2010, to coincide with the state's second annual "Show Me Green Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday."

The program will help Missourians buy appliances at a lower cost while reducing their overall utility bills and boosting area businesses by stimulating energy-efficient appliance sales. When Missourians purchase qualified Energy Star-rated appliances, including gas furnaces, air source heat pumps, central air conditioners, clothes washers, dishwashers and water heaters, they will receive a rebate. To receive an Energy Star rating, appliances are required to meet certain minimum energy efficiency standards. According to DNR, a typical Missouri household can save more money and energy by replacing inefficient heating, cooling or water-heating equipment—which can account for more than half of a home's energy bill—than any other home appliances.

The federal government will provide more than \$5.6 million in funding to Missouri for the rebates, drawing down from funds reserved for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Each state was allowed to design its own personalized rebate program and select the eligible products and rebate amounts, which will be as follows:

- Gas furnaces - \$125
- Air source heat pumps - \$250
- Central air conditioning - \$100
- Water heaters (gas condensing) - \$150
- Water heaters (gas storage) - \$100

- Water heaters (gas tankless) - \$100
- Water heaters (solar with gas backup) - \$500
- Water heaters (electric heat pump) - \$150
- Water heaters (solar with electric backup) - \$500
- Clothes washers - \$75
- Dishwashers - \$75

Rebates will be based on documentation of the purchase and other eligibility criteria, be made on a first-come, first-served basis and be discontinued when the rebate fund has been depleted. The program will not be retroactive, so any purchases must be made after the starting date of the program to be eligible for the rebates.

Interested Missouri residents should also check with their utility providers for other rebates that may be available for these appliances as well as for other Energy Star appliances not included in Missouri's program. Many utility companies offer rebates for purchasing energy-efficient home appliances and equipment. If other utility rebates or incentives exist for a qualified appliance purchase, the addition of the new *Energize Missouri Appliance Rebates* program will increase the total amount a Missouri household may receive. For more information about the Energy Star rating system, and for a list of Energy Star-qualified appliances and equipment, visit energystar.gov.

Information on the *Energize Missouri Appliance Rebates* program is available at dnr.mo.gov/transform/energizemissourirebate.htm. If you currently have inefficient appliances in your home, I encourage you to learn more about this program and take advantage of the rebates available next year, as well as the “Show Me Green Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday.” Not only will you save yourself some money up front, but you will also benefit from decreased energy bills for years to come.

As always, please feel free to contact me or my staff with any questions or concerns at any time. We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions and trying to answer any questions you may have. You can reach us by phone at 866-277-0882 (toll-free) or 573-751-2272, or by fax at 573-526-7381.

Senator David Pearce serves Bates, Cass, Johnson and Vernon counties in the 31st State Senatorial District.

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